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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,089	12/01/2003	Keiichi Iwamura	03500.017749	1384

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EXAMINER

POPHAM, JEFFREY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2137

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/724,089

Applicant(s)

IWAMURA, KEIICHI

Examiner

Jeffrey D. Popham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20040311</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

1. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are "computer program" claims not embodied on a computer readable storage medium. In order to be statutory, the computer program must be embodied on a computer readable storage medium, and the program must be executed, by a processor or the like, within the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Seder (U.S. Patent 6,522,770).

Regarding Claim 1,

Seder discloses a document administration apparatus comprising:

Document image input means for inputting a document image
(Column 3, lines 21-38);

Document discrimination information extraction means for
extracting document discrimination information from the document image
input by the document image input means (Abstract; and Column 2, line
11 to Column 3, line 38);

Authenticity confirmation information generation means for
generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a
predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination
information extracted by the document discrimination information
extraction means (Column 5, lines 46-64);

Authenticity confirmation information storage means for storing the
authenticity confirmation information generated by the authenticity
confirmation information generation means in a predetermined storage
position connected to a network (Column 5, lines 46-64); and

Storage position information embedding means for embedding
information indicating the storage position into the document (Column 2,
line 39 to Column 3, line 38; and Column 4, lines 55-63).

Regarding Claim 9,

Claim 9 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 1
and is rejected for the same reasons.

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Regarding Claim 17,

Claim 17 is a computer program claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 19,

Claim 19 is a computer readable medium claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 2,

Seder discloses that the storage position information embedding means embeds a digital watermark into the document image (Column 2, line 39 to Column 3, line 38; and Column 4, lines 55-63).

Regarding Claim 10,

Claim 10 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 2 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 3,

Seder discloses that the authenticity confirmation information generation means generates the authenticity confirmation information by performing hash conversion to the document discrimination information extracted by the document discrimination information extraction means (Column 5, lines 46-64).

Regarding Claim 11,

Claim 11 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 3 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 4,

Seder discloses that the authenticity confirmation information generation means generates the authenticity confirmation information by performing hash conversion to the document discrimination information extracted by the document discrimination information extraction means and further generates an electronic signature in regard to a hash value obtained through the hash conversion (Column 5, lines 46-64).

Regarding Claim 12,

Claim 12 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 4 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 5,

Seder discloses that the document discrimination information extraction means includes area indication means for indicating a document discrimination information area in the document image, and extracts as the document discrimination information a character string obtained by performing character recognition to an image within the document discrimination information area indicated by the area indication means (Column 2, line 11 to Column 3, line 38; and Column 7, lines 15-19).

Regarding Claim 13,

Claim 13 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 5 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 6,

Seder discloses a document administration apparatus comprising:

Document image input means for inputting a document image
(Column 3, lines 21-38);

Document discrimination information extraction means for
extracting document discrimination information from the document image
input by the document image input means (Abstract; and Column 2, line
11 to Column 3, line 38);

Authenticity confirmation information generation means for
generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a
predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination
information extracted by the document discrimination information
extraction means (Column 5, lines 46-64);

Information extraction means for extracting a digital watermark
embedded in the document image input by the document image input
means (Column 3, lines 21-38);

Access means for accessing a point on a network on the basis of
information extracted as the digital watermark by the information
extraction means (Column 3, lines 21-38; Column 4, lines 55-63; and
Column 5, lines 46-64); and

Authenticity confirmation information comparison means for
comparing authenticity confirmation information stored at the point

accessed by the access means with the authenticity confirmation information generated by the authenticity confirmation information generation means (Column 5, lines 46-64).

Regarding Claim 7,

Claim 7 is an apparatus claim that is broader than apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 8,

Claim 8 is an apparatus claim that is broader than apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 14,

Claim 14 is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 15,

Claim 15 is a method claim that is broader than apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 16,

Claim 16 is a method claim that is broader than apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 18,

Claim 18 is a computer program claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding Claim 20,

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Claim 20 is a computer readable medium claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Durst (U.S. Patent 6,434,561) and Wolff (U.S. Patent 5,671,282).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey D. Popham whose telephone number is (571)-272-7215. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571)272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeffrey D Popham
Examiner
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MUSTAS - HANDY